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囚人のろくでん

jujika no rokudenn

中武士竜

shiryu NAKATAKE presents

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

1
十字架のろくにん
jyuujika no rokunin
中武士竜
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CHAPTER 1: HUMAN SUBJECT A'S TRANSFORMATION

新連載

悪と正義が交錯するサイコ・サスペンス！

別マガ絶望コンペ通過！

ひとはどうして、ひとじゃなくなるのか

十字架のろくにん

第1話　実験体Aの変革

若武者！ 中武士竜
Wakamusha Nakabushi Ryu

THIS WORLD

IS A MUDDIED ONE

HOWEVER, THERE ARE 2 THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR TO ME.

THEY ARE

GOOD.

EVIL.

THOSE ARE

HUH.

400CC ATTACK!

RAH!

KEHYA!

BANG.

BANG.

UGH.

GUH EH..

URUMA
SHUN
12
YEARS
OLD

NO.

HEY..

IT'S FINE ALREADY RIGHT? TODAY'S EXPERIMENT...

NOT YET.

*ISH'

HURTS.

*IT HURTS.

KUGA DAICHI, 12 YEARS OLD

HAH, HIS FACE IS BRIGHT RED.

AS EXPECTED.

USHIRO YUUGA, 12 YEARS OLD

VROOM.

VROOM.

SEN KOUJI, 12 YEARS OLD

MADOKA-KUN, YOU'RE GETTING TOO EXCITED.

MADOKA HIRO, 12 YEARS OLD

KEHYA!

AS EXPECTED, KYU-CHAN!

DON'T

SHIGOKU KYOU,

12 YEARS OLD

KYOU-CHAN IS EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN THE ADULTS IN THE DOJO AFTER ALL.

COOL!

YOU MUST'VE SEEN THAT IN THE DOJO DIDN'T YOU, THAT MOVE...

THE TECHNIQUE TO END ONE'S LIFE.

YEAH.

I'LL REALLY ...

DIE...

HE'LL DIE.

IF YOU TIGHTEN IT HERE.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DID IT.

IT JUST SUDDEN-LY HAP-PENED.

KEHYA!

SOON AFTER I BECAME A 5TH GRADER, I STARTED BEING BULLIED BY THESE 5.

GROSS!

COUGH

COU GH.

DID HE REALLY INTEND TO KILL ME?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO KILL HIM FOR REAL.

THIS GUY SOILED HIS OWN PANTS!

WELL, LATER THEN.

TEST SUBJECT A.

TRULY, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

THEY'RE LIKENING BULLYING AS AN EXPERIMENT?

"LAB RAT A" IS THE NICKNAME THOSE GUYS CALL ME.

I REALLY CAN'T DO IT...

PAH.

ボン

MEOW

MEOW.

SHUN!

WHY ARE YOU SOAKED?

MOM, DAD, I'M HOME!

!

(TL NOTE: NAME MEANS TO SOAR OR TO FLY)

KAKERU!

ガラガラ

I WAS PLAYING AT THE RIVER.

URUMA KAKERU,
6 YEARS OLD

YOU'RE SOAKED!

BIG BRO!

I FOUND A LITTLE KITTEN!

AND...

LIWAA, COLD!

I WAS PLAYING AT THE RIVER!

スリ
スリ

UWAAA

IT'S SO CUTE!

LET'S JUST KEEP IT HERE!

BUT WE CAN'T BRING IT HOME RIGHT?

THIS WILL BE

OUR SE-CRET

IT'S GOING TO BE A LITTLE SECRET BETWEEN US.

IT'S KIND OF EXCITING.

SOMEHOW.

WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU THEN, KITTY.

WHAT'S THAT MARK ON YOUR NECK?

!

?

EH? BIG BRO.

AHH! THIS... I WAS PLAYING WRESTLING AT SCHOOL.

I WAS CAUGHT IN A STRANGLE ATTACK..

BUT I WON AT THE END, YOU KNOW?

PHEW

IS THAT SO.

THE ONLY THING THAT CALMS MY HEART.

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, I'LL KEEP UP THIS LIE.

I CAN'T LET HIM KNOW. TO SAVE THE SMILE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER,

To Shun.
Going out to buy something.
left a crab stick.

!

THEN I CAN FEED HIM WITH THIS.
I WONDER IF HE'LL EAT IT?

CHIRIN

HE'S NOT HERE...

CHIRIN

HEY, TEST SUBJECT A.

COME WITH US.

!?

WE LEFT THE KITTEN AT THIS MOUNTAIN.

IF YOU DON'T FIND IT QUICKLY, I WONDER IF IT'LL GET EATEN.

THERE ARE BOARS AND FOXES HERE, YOU KNOW.

WHY!?

DID THEY!

KYOU-CHAN, WHY DID YOU

START BULLYING URUMA?

HOW HE WENT IN

.....

HEY KYOU-CHAN.

WE'RE FOLLOWING KYOU-CHAN BECAUSE IT'S FUN FOR US TOO.

BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY REASON WHY YOU'RE PICKING ON HIM, THAT'S ALL.

WHAT IS IT HIRO? DO YOU NOT LIKE IT?

NO, NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT I DON'T LIKE IT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MOST AMAZING THING THEY CAN DO IS?

.....

FOR A PERSON...

NO.

BE FILTHY RICH!

GO TO SPACE.

GOLD MEDAL.

LEAD A BIKER GANG.

TO MURDER?

NO, IT'S NOT SIMPLY MURDER.

TO KILL FOR SOMEONE'S SAKE.

TO KILL FOR YOURSELF, KILL FOR LOVE, THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON.

A PERSON WHO KILLS FOR NO REASON...

THE ANSWER IS

TO KILL A PERSON.

A PERSON WHO GREW UP IN A LOVING AND WELCOMING FAMILY.

BLESSED WITH FRIENDS.

I WILL BE THE FIRST.

NO REASON.

NO DESIRE.

A KILLER LIKE THAT.

NOW THAT IT'S DECIDED.

FIRST,

KILL-ING

SOME-ONE.

EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDI-RECTLY.

FOR A WEAK PERSON LIKE HIM.

TRYING TO KILL HIM INDIRECTLY...

THIS IS

THAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT.

...WOULD IT BE RISKY OR NOT?

HOW FAR MUST HE BE DRIVEN.

FOR TEST SUB-JECT A.

UNTIL HE KILLS HIMSELF?

HEH! YOU'RE REALLY AMAZING AIN'T YA

KYOU-CHAN!

THOSE GUYS ARE... TOO MEAN.

SOB

SOB

UGUU..

DO SUCH A THING?

HOW COULD THEY...

I JUST WANT TO SEE THEM RIGHT NOW.

MOM, DAD, KAKERU,

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T EVEN GIVEN IT A NAME YET...

THIS PLACE... WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

!!

WAH!!

!?

SHUN?

GRAMPS?

AH.. THIS IS A HUNTING GUN.

I'M JUST OUT LOOKING FOR BOARS.

ARE YOU LOST?

Y-YES...

IS THAT SO,

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE.

I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

SHUN!

MOM.

FROM FATHER'S SIDE OF FAMILY.

GRAMPS IS

WELL, BE GOOD NOW SHUN.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GO NEAR HIM?

GRAMPS IS LIVING BY HIMSELF.

SO OUR FAMILY LIVES NEARBY TO WATCH OVER HIS HEALTH.

WHY WERE YOU WITH GRAMPS JUST NOW?

OR SO IT SEEMS

HE WOULDN'T TELL US ANYTHING.

BECAUSE YOU'D BE SCARED OF HIM.

EVEN WHEN WE ASK DAD WHY.

KAKERU AND I AREN'T ALLOWED TO SEE GRAMPS.

I'M SORRY..

SHUT

SOB

WHAT'S WRONG?

BIG BRO,

!

NOT GOOD...

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

I CAN'T LOOK AT KAKERU'S FACE WHILE TEARING UP LIKE THIS.

YOU HAVE...

ALWAYS BEEN TRYING HARD.

BIG BRO

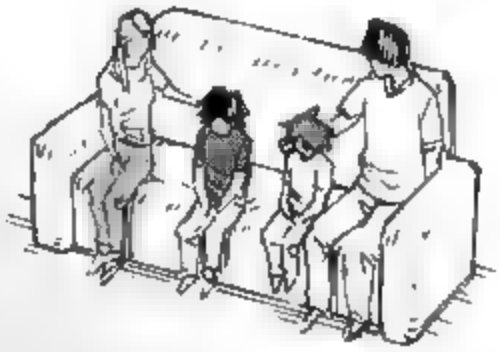
EH?

IT'S FINE BIG BRO.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TRYING SO HARD FOR MY SAKE HAVEN'T YOU.

EH? WHAT?

I FINALLY TOLD MY FAMILY ABOUT BEING BULLIED, AND WAS COMFORTED BY THEM.



THAT DAY

THEN, MY PARENTS MOVED QUICKLY AND I WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

SINCE I DIDN'T WANT TO RECEIVE A HALF-HEARTED APOLOGY.

I DIDN'T SPEAK OF THEIR NAMES

SINCE I STOPPED GOING TO THAT SCHOOL.

AND NOW, IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH

A FEW DAYS LATER

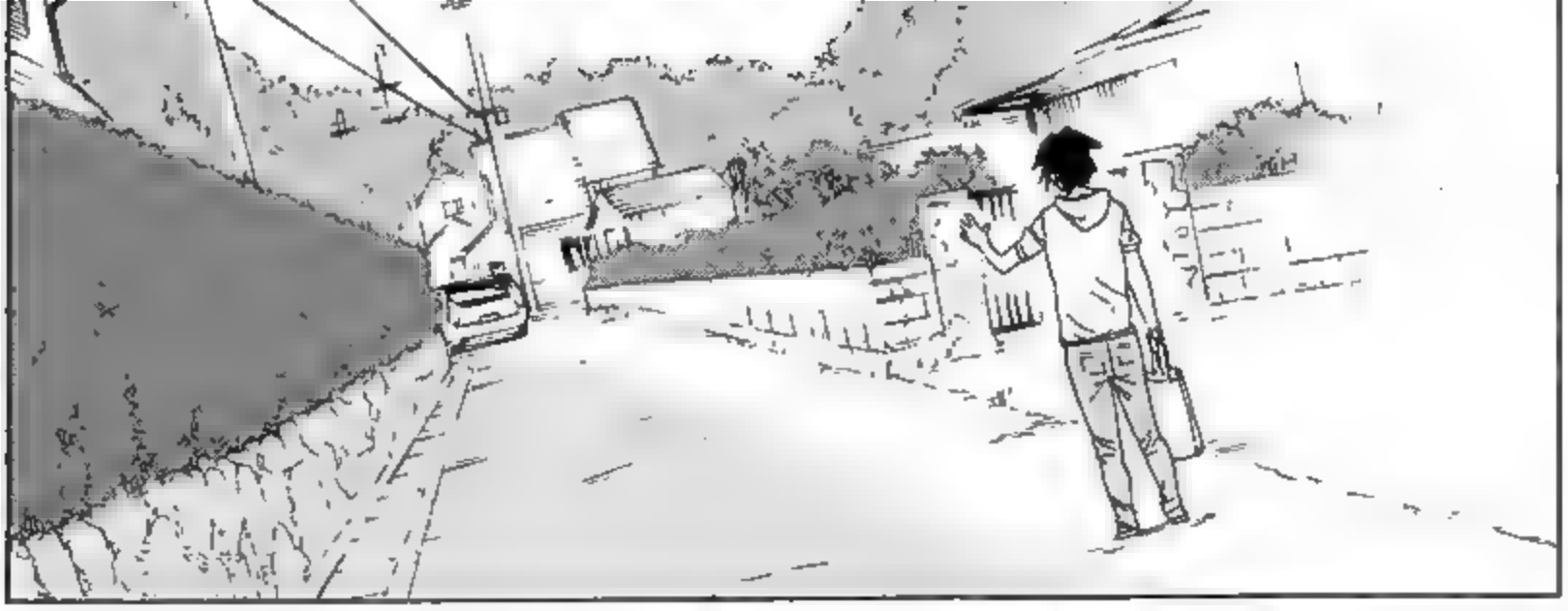
YES, MOM

TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY TO THE GROCERIES OK?

WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP DAD NOW.

BIG BRO

LATER,



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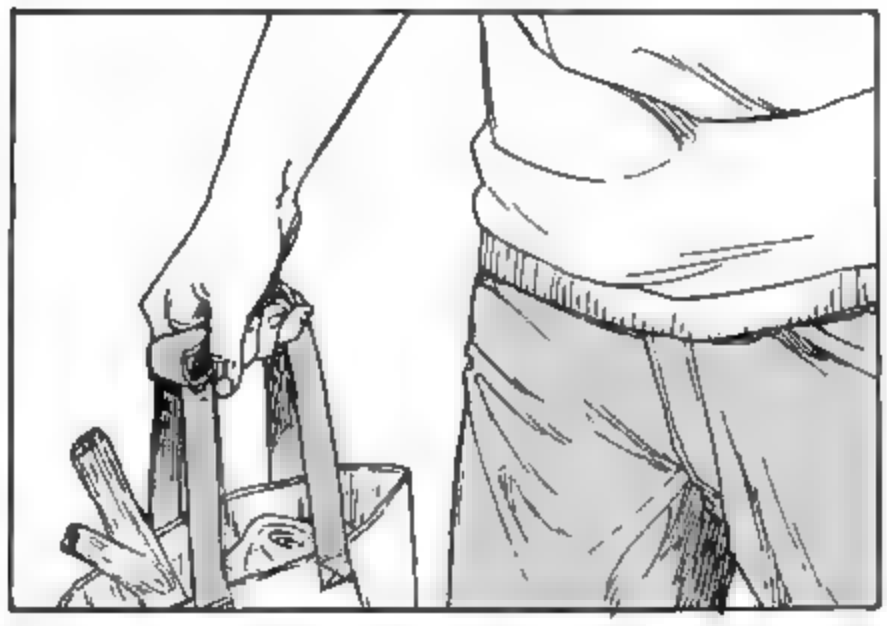


HEY, HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT SCHOOL LATELY.

YOUR MOM USUALLY GOES TO PICK UP YOUR DAD AROUND THIS HOUR, RIGHT?

WE KNOW,

I THINK IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD EVEN IF THERE

WAS AN ACCI-DENT THERE WOULD IT?

WH-

?

IT'S FROM KYOU-CHAN.

HERE,

RUNNING AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EXPERI-MENT IS UN-FORGIVABLE YOU KNOW?

HEY, THE MOUN-TAIN PASS THAT TEST SUBJECT A'S PARENTS ALWAYS GO THROUGH...

ALTHOUGH, THE ORDER OF WHAT I WANTED TO DO WAS REVERSED.

PU

WHAT ..

HM, WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO END THE EXPERIMENT AFTER THIS HUH.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

.....

LOOK,

HIS PARENT'S CAR IS COMING.

KEHYA!

EH?

THIS.

GEH

AHA

LOOK, IT WORKED, HIRO

KEHYA

PA?

MA?

GROANING NOISES

GROANING NOISES

GROANING NOISES

?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEGUN.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER.

BUT HE'S SUFFERED SERIOUS BURNS AND INJURIES.

THE ACCIDENT.

HE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO WAKE UP FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

WHAT WOULD BIG BRO DO IF YOU WERE ALONE?

BIG BRO, LOOK!

I DREW A PICTURE OF YOU!

BIG BRO'S PAINTING WAS HARD!

YOU DID A GOOD JOB!

GOOD FOR YOU, SHUN!

I... TOO...

DAD... MOM... KAKERU...

SHOULD I DIE TOO?

SHUN

I'M YOUR FATHER'S BROTHER.

!

IF YOU DON'T, HOW ABOUT STAYING WITH US.

IT'S A BIT FAR, BUT I THINK IT'D BE GOOD.

FROM HERE ON OUT, DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?

A PLACE?

I HAVE A PLACE TO GO.

A PLACE...

I DO

SHUN

HAVE A PLACE TO STAY.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY, GRAMPS.

SO IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE.

I GET LONELY STAYING HERE ANYWAY.

UM

I'LL SEND YOU HOME.

BUT BEFORE THAT

LET ME PUT THIS AWAY IN THE WARE-HOUSE.

ザッ ザッ

ゴロ ゴロ

!

AH. OVER THERE?

GOT IT!

WITH THIS...

北山部隊

!?

WHA... WHAT IS..

THIS?

KITAYAMA CORPS?

!

SHUN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SHUN!

THAT IS..

!

GRAMPS ...

GIVE IT ERE!

NO, I WON'T!

!!

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH IT?

THEY WERE KILLED?
IS THAT THE TRUTH?
THOSE FUCKERS TOLD ME THEIR PLANS
I WON'T TELL THEM!
THEN THE PO-LICE-...
I'LL KILL THEM ALL
WITH THIS,
DAD, MOM, KAKERU, I'LL KILL THOSE BASTARDS.

I WON'T LET ANYONE

TAKE THIS REVENGE AWAY FROM ME

ARE YOU SO HOPELESS THAT YOU'D HAVE TO USE THAT?

IF I WERE TO KILL THEM, I WOULD USE A KNIFE OR ANYTHING ELSE.

IS THAT SO.

I'M NOT...

EVEN IF IT'S TO AVENGE YOUR FAMILY.

BESIDES, IF IT'S THE CURRENT YOU, THE GUILT OF KILLING THEM WOULD HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, SHUN.

HOWEVER, WITH THAT THING, YOU'D BE CAUGHT BY THE POLICE BEFORE BEING ABLE TO KILL ANYONE.

WHERE IS THE THRILL

IN THAT?

KURE SANCHOFU'S 100TH SPECIAL SQUADRON,

ALSO KNOWN AS THE "KITAYAMA CORP"

北山部隊

WERE A JAPANESE SECRET SERVICE UNIT, ESTABLISHED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

DURING MY TIME THERE,

WAYS OF KILLING PEOPLE WERE THOROUGHLY DRILLED INTO ME.

THEY

I SHALL TRAIN YOU

AND EXACT YOUR REVENGE

TO CERTAINLY

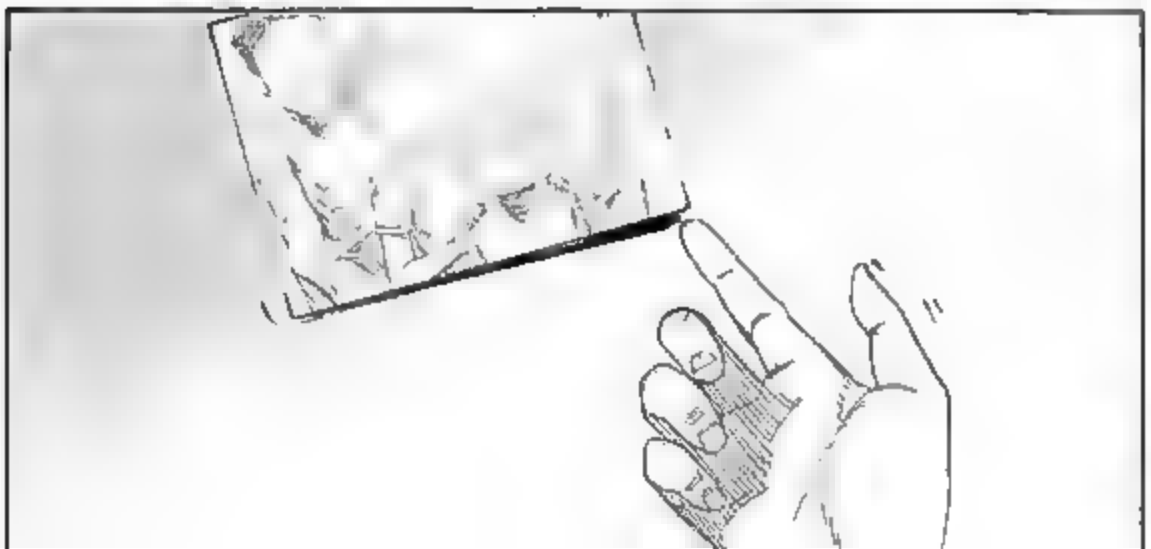
GIVE THEY THE SUFFERING THEY DESERVE

GRAMPS'S WORDS WERE NO LIES

I'M CONVINCED THAT'S THE CASE

BECAUSE THEIR EYES

ARE THE EXACT SAME



4 YEARS
LATER

IN THIS MUDDIED WORLD.

THE PERSON WHO DRIFTED AROUND NOT KNOWING WHAT HE WAS, NO LONGER EXISTS

GOOD

EVIL

I'M GOING OUT, GRAMPS.

AND THEN I

UM.

HAVE BECOME

SOMETHING DETER-MINED

VENGEANCE RISES ON THE SHORES OF GOOD AND EVIL.

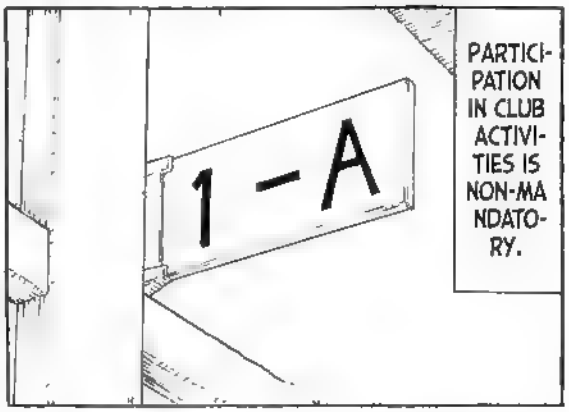
SHOCKING NEW SERIALISATION! CHAPTER 2!

UNCHANGING DESPITE THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE ELEGANT SCHOOL BUILDING.
IT'S A NATURALLY COLOURFUL SCHOOL COMMUTE.
MEISEKI HIGH

LAST TIME
6TH GRADER JINMA SHUN LIVED HAPPILY TOGETHER WITH HIS LOVING PARENTS AND LITTLE BROTHER. THAT IS, UNTIL A GROUP OF 5 CLASSMATES MASSACRED HIS ENTIRE FAMILY. HE WAS TAKEN IN BY HIS GRANDFATHER, WHO HAD BEEN PART OF THE KITAYAMA TROOPS, A SECRET ORGANISATION IN THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY, FOR 4 YEARS, AND HE BECAME THE PERSONIFICATION OF REVENGE.

AZUMA CHIZURU

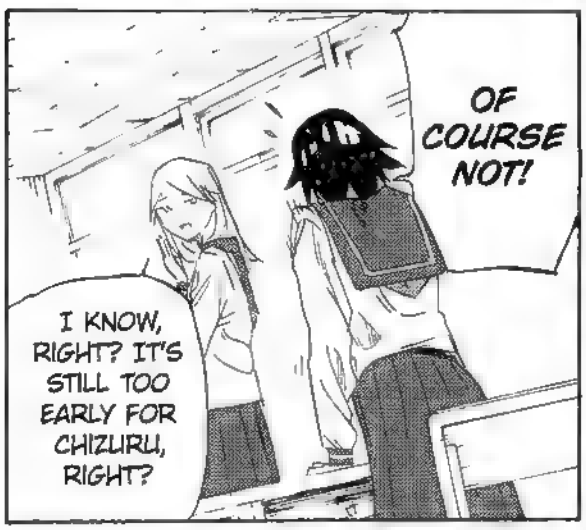
十字架のろくにん



CHAPTER 2: THE LAST TEST

MORNING! CHIZURU!
PLEASE LET ME BE LIKE THE HEROINE IN THE MORNING DRAMA-

HA? GOOD MOOD?
THANKS FOR RUINING MY GOOD MOOD.
GOOD MORNING, MONE.


OF COURSE NOT!
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR CHIZURU, RIGHT?

WHAT? YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING?
!?

2m
TOO BIG!
APPARENTLY THERE ARE SOME LATELY – AROUND 2M TALL...
THAT'S... IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL GET ATTACKED BY A SUSPICIOUS GUY!
CHIZURU SAYS SHE WANTS A BOYFRIEND!
!
WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'RE ENERGETIC THIS MORNING.
IT...
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT...
EHH?
WAIT, I NEVER SAID THAT!
YOU DON'T NEED A BOY-FRIEND?
THEN,
AH, WAIT!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS AGAIN AT THE NEXT BREAK!
KYAAA!

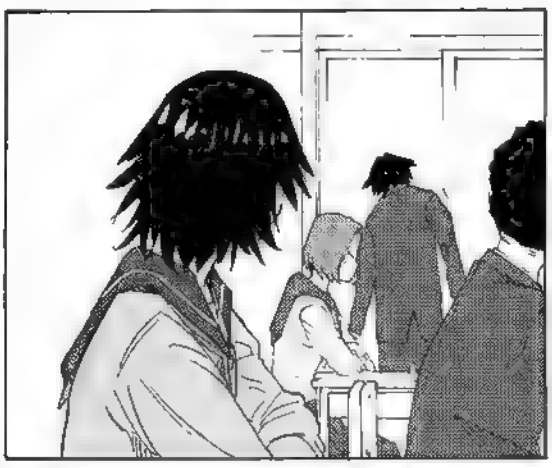
BOY-FRIEND ...
THEN, YOU DON'T NEED A BOY-FRIEND?
DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL, I WAS ALWAYS ABSORBED INTO CLUB ACTIVITIES SO,
I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THOUGH...

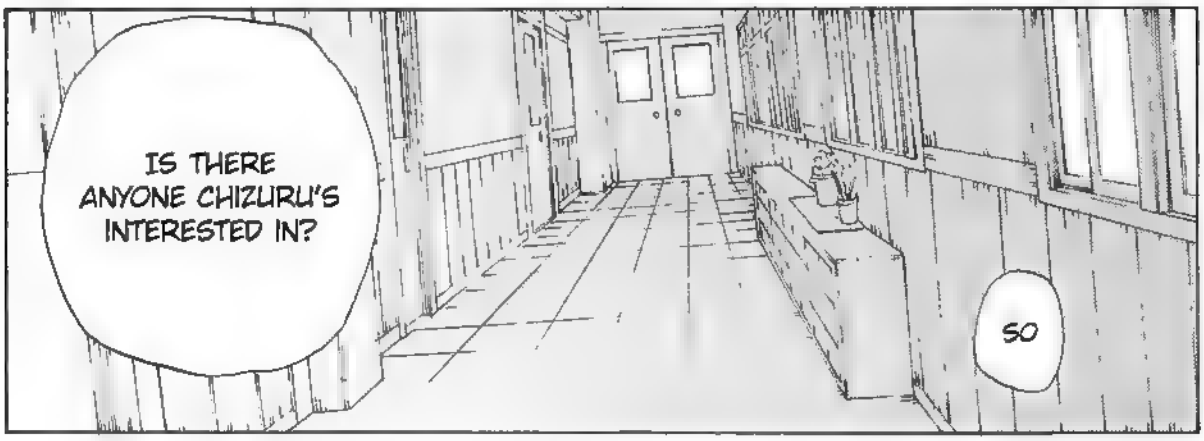
EH?!
FOR ME, WHO HAS NEVER CONFESSED TO ANYONE BEFORE, IT'S DUBIOUS AS TO WHETHER I'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A PROPER ROMANCE!
URUMA!
THEN FOR THIS...
WHAT?! YOU CAN SOLVE IT?
HOW MANY TIMES DOES THAT MAKE?!
IT'S NOT 'EH?'!
SOLVE THIS QUESTI... AH, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, HUH.
.....

RETURN TO YOUR SEAT!
I'M SORRY!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHY DID YOU EVEN COME UP?

PFFT

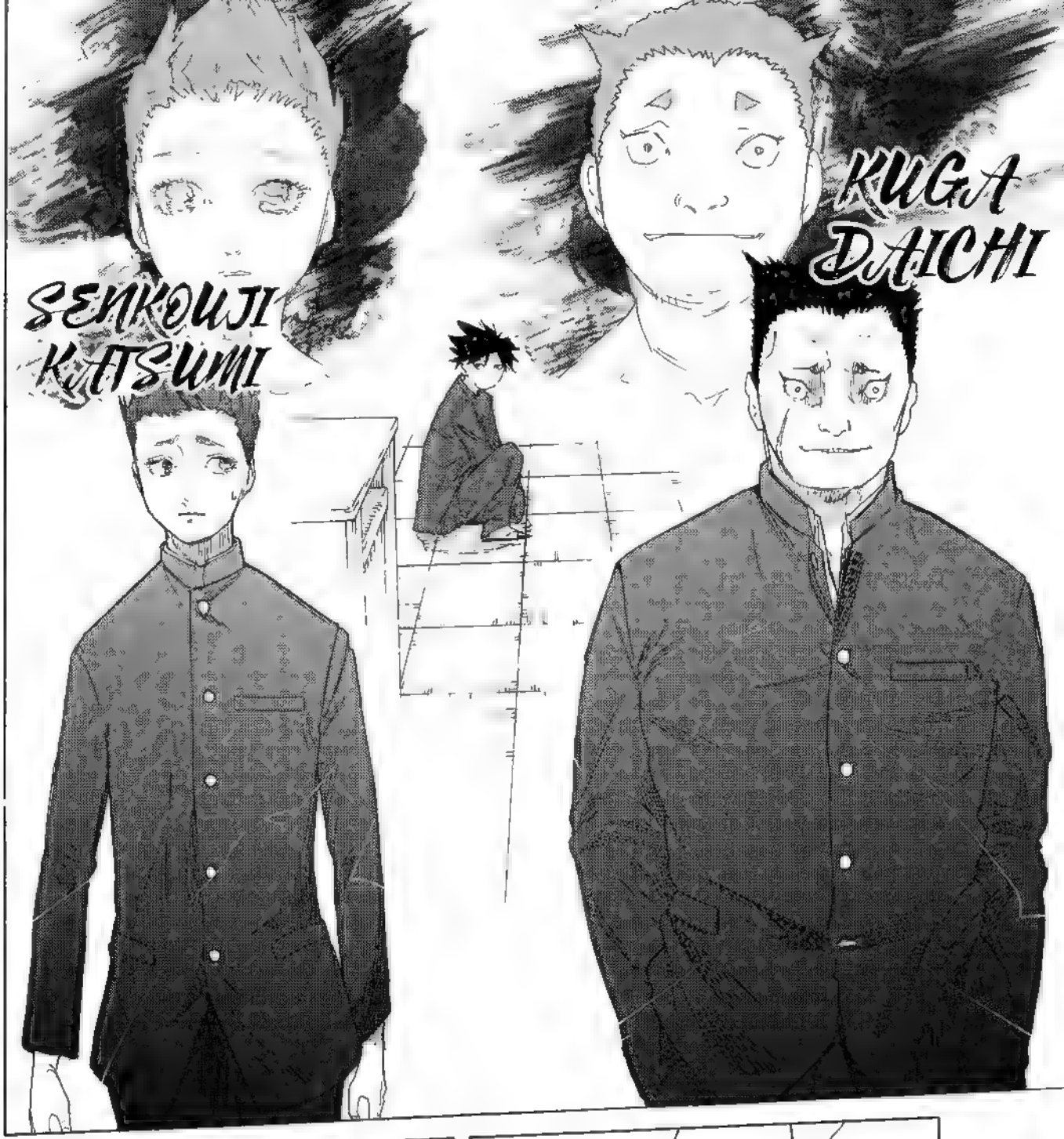


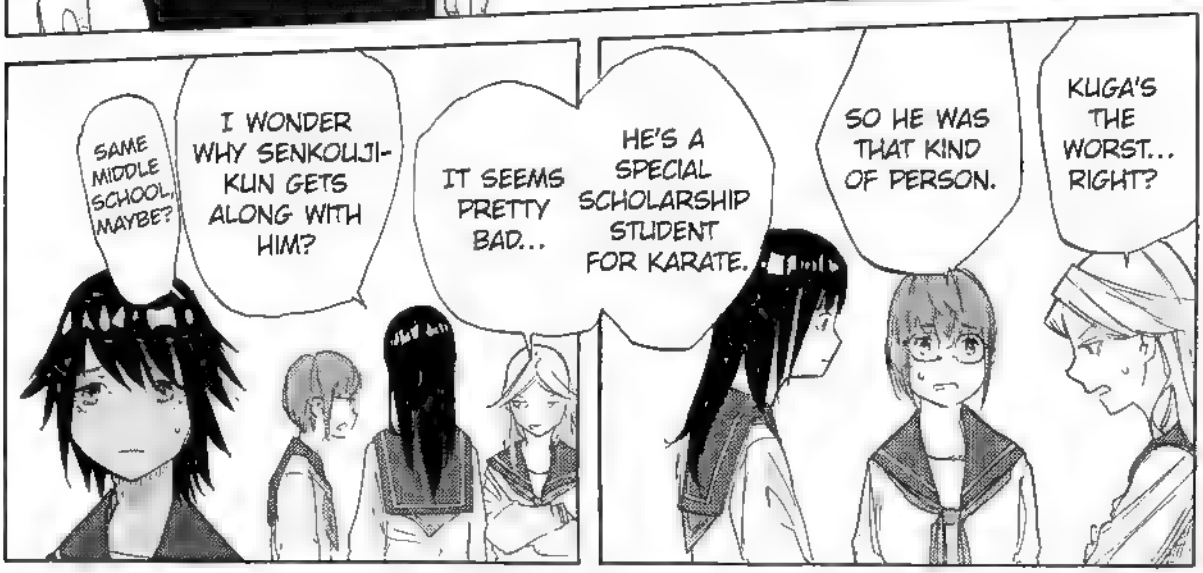

IS THERE ANYONE CHIZURU'S INTERESTED IN?
SO

IF I'M FORCED?
IF YOU'RE FORCED TO CHOOSE! IF YOU WERE FORCED TO CHOOSE!
キョロ
キョロ
EH...?
I'M TELLING YOU, THERE ISN'T!
WE'RE CONTINUING FROM JUST NOW!
EEHHH?!
MAYBE URUMA-KUN?

NO, REALLY.
AH, SHE'S SERIOUS. HER EYES AREN'T SMILING.
KYAA!
NO, HOLD ON! I JUST FIND HIM A BIT INTERESTING!
IT'S NOT LOVE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
HMM, IS URUMA-KUN INTERESTING?
AH, WHOOPS! DID I HIT YOU?
!?
URUMA.
HE'S HANDSOME BUT SLENDER AND SEEMS WEAK...
CLATTER

HEY!
I DIDN'T SEE YOU.
N-NO, IT'S OKAY.
AH
I DIDN'T SEE YOU AGAIN.
ビク!
AH?
LET'S STOP THIS, DAICHI-KUN.
SHUT IT!
LET'S GO, SENKOUJI.


SENKOUJI KATSUMI
KUGA DAICHI


SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, MAYBE?
I WONDER WHY SENKOUJI-KUN GETS ALONG WITH HIM?
IT SEEMS PRETTY BAD...
HE'S A SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT FOR KARATE.
SO HE WAS THAT KIND OF PERSON.
KUGA'S THE WORST... RIGHT?

Staff Room
I'VE COME TO COLLECT THE PACK-

AZUMA! I'M AZUMA CHIZU-RU, FROM THE SAME CLASS!

URUMA-KUN!

ITS FINE, AZUMA-SAN. IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME.
BECAUSE KUGA MIGHT TARGET YOU.

... UMM ...

LET'S JUST SAY HE WON'T FIND OUT!
.....
MUSIC PREPARATION ROOM
PHEW!
THAT TEACHER MADE YOU CARRY SOMETHING THIS HEAVY BY YOURSELF?
AZUMA-SAN.
THANKS.

OH STOP THANKING ME!
BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING...
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE ATONEMENT FOR THAT. FOR MY OWN SAKE!
BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, KU-GA-KUN IS BIG AND SCARY!
HAHA, THAT'S TRUE.
KU-KUGA-KUN WAS FROM THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS YOU?
NOPE. OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS WERE DIFFERENT... WE WENT TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I SEE...

YOU SURE ARE KIND, AZUMA-SAN.
BUT, I'LL BE FINE.

THAT WAS DONE TO HIM, AND HE DOESN'T THINK ANY-THING OF IT?

I DON'T THINK MUCH OF KUGA'S ACTIONS.

IF... IF IT'S LIKE THAT,
I'LL GO TO THE TEACHERS AND...

I... I SEE.
IT'S REALLY FINE.

AZUMA-SAN.
THEN, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS... I CAN...

IT'S MORE OF A NUISANCE
THAN KUGA.

PLEASE DON'T.

ガラがう…

AH.
EH?

I DON'T GET HIM!

AH, GEEZ... I GOT SO MAD THAT TEARS ARE COMING OUT!
WELL, WELL ...

WHY DOESN'T HE WANT TO TELL THE TEACHERS ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
ぐしゃ

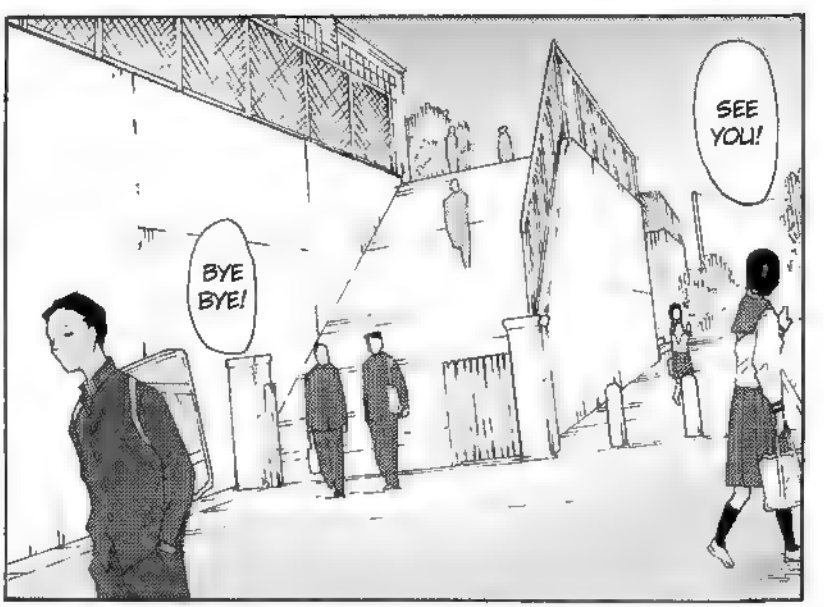
SAYING THAT IT'S MORE OF NUISANCE THAN KUGA IS...
AH... IT'S IN PAIN. THAT SAND-WICH...

BUT, KUGA-KUN IS JUST STRANGE!
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
CHIZURU'S ALWAYS HAD TOO MUCH UNNECESSARY KINDNESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, SINCE WAY BACK.
IT'LL BE MAKING THINGS WORSE, SO YOU'D BETTER STOP...
I WONDER WHY HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUT URUMA-KUN IS ALSO STRANGE, RIGHT?
KUGA-KUN IS ALSO STRANGE ...
I'M SURE HE AFRAID THAT KUGA-KUN WILL FIND OUT IF HE TALKS TO THE TEACHERS?

HAA...
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY THAT.

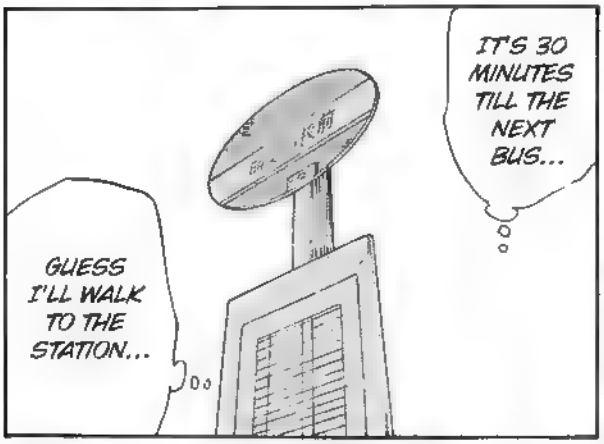
YOU MIGHT HAVE HIT THE BULLSEYE.
MONE SAID THAT HE'S HANDSOME BUT SLENDER AND SEEMS WEAK.

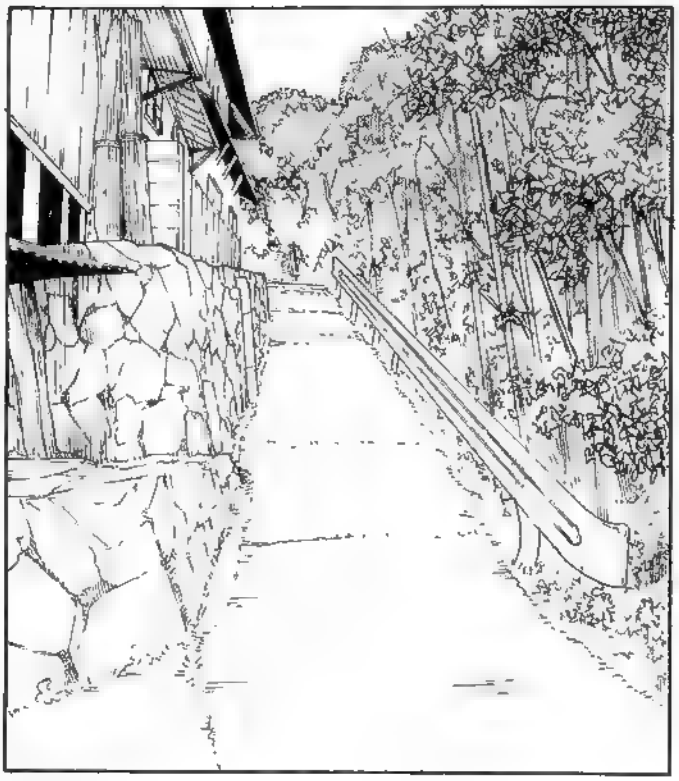
ㅋㅋ..


BYE BYE!
SEE YOU!

CRAP!
THE BUS LEFT...

AH.
ブォォ


IT'S 30 MINUTES TILL THE NEXT BUS...
GUESS I'LL WALK TO THE STATION...



SO HE TAKES THIS ROUTE.
URUMA-KUN...!
IT'S MORE OF A NUISANCE THAN KUGA.
PLEASE DON'T.
IT WOULD BE AWKWARD IF I OVERTOOK HIM...

HUH?
WHERE DID HE GO?

WHAT?! A PERVERT?!
I-I'VE GOT TO RUN...!
L-L-

SOMEON-
!
N-NOD IF YOU UNDERSTAND.
NOD
SCREAM, AND I'LL KILL YOU.
SCREAM, AND I'LL KILL YOU.

STOP ...
MOVE YOUR HANDS AWAY.
UH

NO...

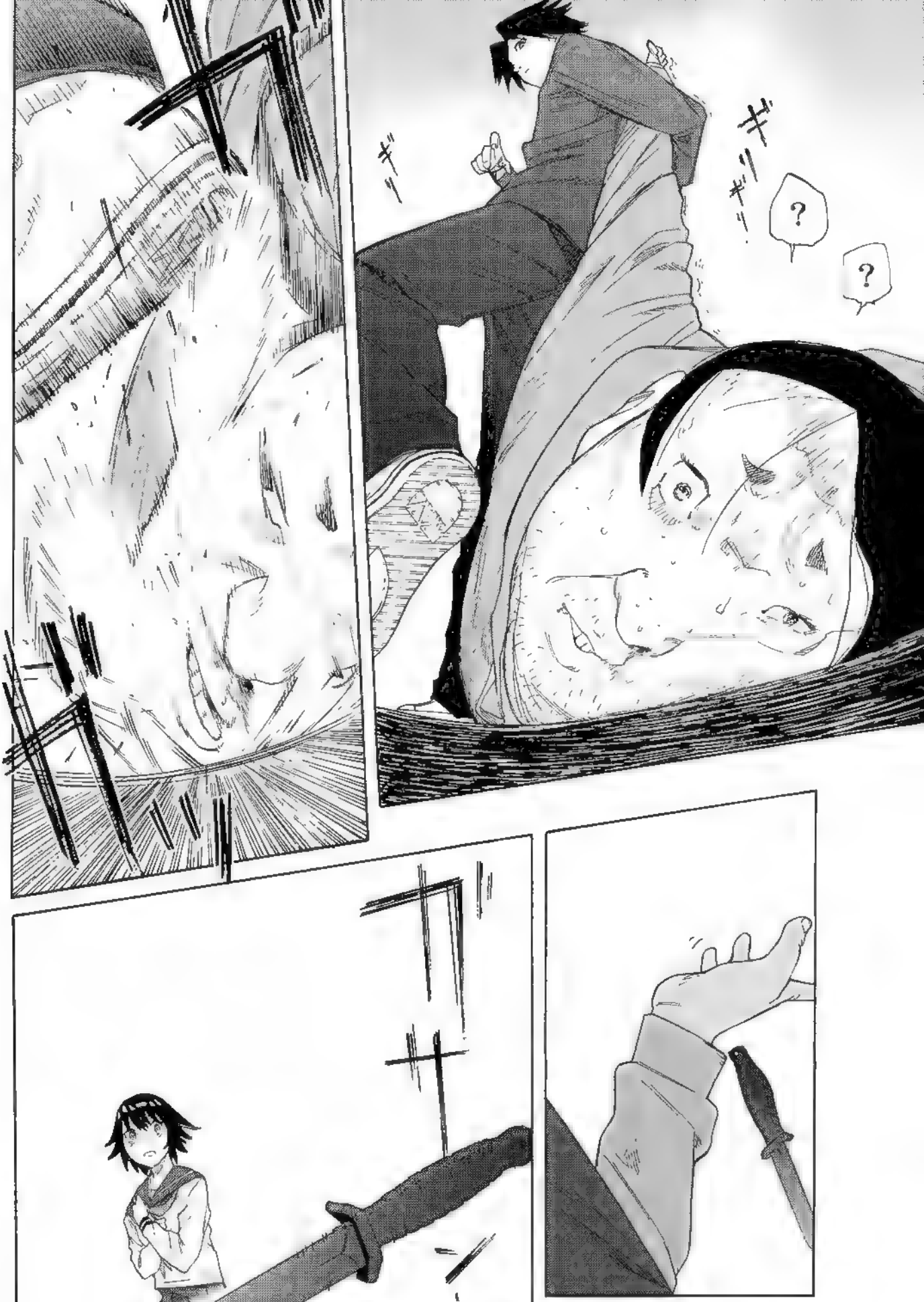
RELAX.
RE-RELAX.
IF... IF I STAY STILL...
WILL IT BE OVER QUICKLY?
I-I'VE GOT TECH-NIQUE.
AH, DON'T WORRY.

FUU
FUU
I'M SCARED.
I'M SO SCARED...!
FUU
HAA
FUU
NO.
I DON'T WANT THIS!
WAS WITH THE PERSON I LIKE
IT WOULD'VE BEEN GREAT...
FUU
IF THE FIRST TIME...

GUH
AAARGH! OWW!
WH-WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
EH?
AH
U...

URUMA-KUN...?
FOUND YOU...

I'LL KILL YOU!
GETTING IN MY WAY...!
チャ
BAS- BASTARD...
!?
ゴッ


ギ
ギリ
?
?

I WAS SCARED ...
I WAS SO SCARED ...
SNIFF
SNIFF
!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, AZUMA-SAN?
AZUMA-SAN.
I'M SORRY, BUT,
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...

WHAT YOU SAW HERE,
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE.
LEAVE THAT TO ME...
I'LL ALSO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE. AND...
コクン
I CAN ONLY OBEY.
URUMA-KUN'S GAZE IS TO THE FRONT. I...

THAT'S
YOU CAN WEAR IT BACK.
YOUR CLOTHES ARE TORN, RIGHT?

SEE YOU, AZUMA-SAN.

SEE YOU TOMORROW...

URUMA-KUN..
WHO ON EARTH IS HE...

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.. I'VE ONLY SEEN IT IN MOVIES.
HE'S HANDSOME BUT SLENDER AND SEEMS WEAK.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG.

AH...

THANK GOODNESS SOMEONE CAME.

I FORGOT TO THANK URUMA-KUN...

じゃぁ…

GRANDPA
I...
CAN DO
IT.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

CHAPTER 3: A SINGLE-MINDED DESIRE

十字架のろくにん

SINCE THEY WERE KILLED...
IT'S BEEN 4 YEARS...
I WENT TO A DIFFERENT MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM THE 5 OF THEM,
SO I DON'T KNOW THE CURRENT THEM WELL.
ONLY HUMANS ARE ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE, REFLECT ON THEIR SINS, AND THEN FORGIVE THEM.
HAVING THAT QUALITY IS WHAT MAKES ONE HUMAN.
IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME...
FOR THEM TO BE RE-FORMED.
4 YEARS IS LONG.
IF NOTH-ING HAS CHANGED, THEN...
HOWEV-ER,

TAKE HOLD OF THEIR BOWELS AND TEAR THEM OUT. RIP OFF THEIR SKIN.
KILL THEM THOR-OUGHLY.
YEAH. I PRAY THAT THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED.
WELL THEN ...
WHO'S FIRST?
THAT
ISN'T A PERSON.

THE FIRST ONE IS...

SHIGOKU KYOU

1ST YEAR AT TEISEI HIGH. EXPERTISE: 'EVIL INTENT'.

PASSED THE TEST TO THE TOP PREP SCHOOL IN THE PREFECTURE WITH FULL MARKS. CURRENTLY LOOKING TO ENTER THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

CONTROL TOWER OF THE FIVE. THEIR KING. THE CENTRAL FIGURE OF THE KILLING OF MY PARENTS.

KUGA DAICHI

1ST YEAR AT MEISEKI HIGH. EXPERTISE: 'VIOLENCE'.

VICTOR OF THE NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS AT 90KG. I WAS OFTEN HIS PRACTICE KIT FOR TRYING OUT HIS TECHNIQUES. HAS KNOWN SHIGOKU FOR THE LONGEST.

USHIRO YUUGA

1ST YEAR AT TEISEI HIGH. EXPERTISE: 'HANDSOME'.

CALLED A 'WOMANIZER' AFTER BECOMING A 6TH GRADER. HANDSOME PLAYBOY. CURRENT PRIVATE LIFE IS A MYSTERY.

SENKOUJI KATSUMI

1ST YEAR AT MEISEKI HIGH. EXPERTISE: 'TOYS'.

LOVES TORMENTING THE WEAK MORE THAN HIS 3 MEALS A DAY. HIS FAVORITE IS THE AIR GUN. I OFTEN BECAME HIS TARGET AND CRIED EASILY FROM IT.

MADOKA HIRO

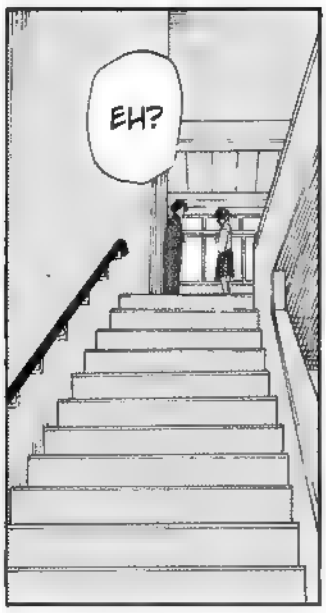
1ST YEAR AT TEISEI HIGH. EXPERTISE: 'RUNNING ERRANDS'.

AN EXTREME RELIGIOUS FANATIC. WILL EVEN LICK SHOES IF IT'S TO EARN EXTRA POINTS.

!
URUMA-KUN...!
U... URUMA-KUN!
I HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR BEFORE...

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME, BEFORE...!
AND SO... UM, I WANTED TO THANK YOU...
AZUMA-SAN.
GOOD MORN-ING!
U-UM ...
CHIZU-RU!
IT'S SO HOT THIS EARLY IN THE MORN-ING!
LET'S MOVE TO SOME-WHERE ELSE, URUMA-KUN...
GO AWAAAY!
SHUT UP, MONE!

WHAT IS THIS?
THIS... FOR ME...?


EH?

Jibecat
Jibedog
IT'S A PROTECTIVE CHARM! THERE'S ALSO OTHERS, LIKE JIBEDOG AND JIBECAT, BUT JIBEBIRD-CHAN IS RARE AND...
ITS SOOO CUTE, RIGHT?!
IT'S JIBE-BIRD-CHAN FROM THE CHIBETA ANIMAL SERIES!

NEXT TIME... URUMA-KUN WOULD BE PROTECTED BY THAT...

SHE'S GOT STRANGE HOBBIES.
AH, THAT'S NOT IT...! I'M SORRY! I JUST KEPT RAMBLING!

AND ALSO ...
DON'T SLEEP!
WITH THIS, IT WOULD BE NICE IF I'M NOT CAUGHT NODDING OFF IN CLASS.
THANK YOU, AZU-MA-SAN.
THERE IS... ONE MORE THING...
THAT I WANT... TO TELL URUMA-KUN...
UM...

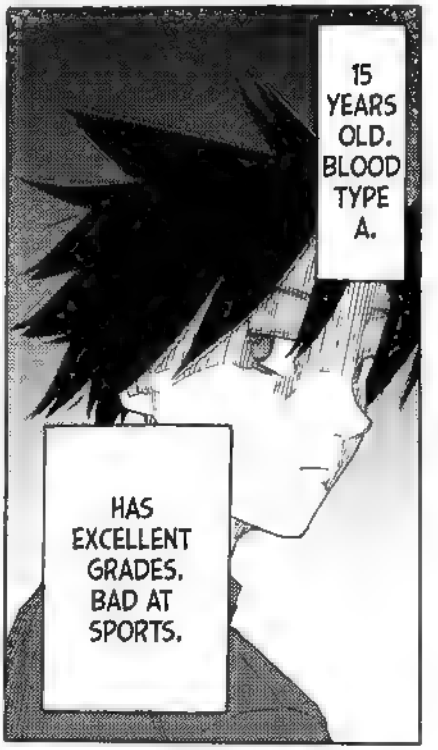
HUH?

SORRY! IT'S NOTHING, AFTER ALL!
?

WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE FINE EVEN IF AZUMA-SAN ISN'T SO WARY.

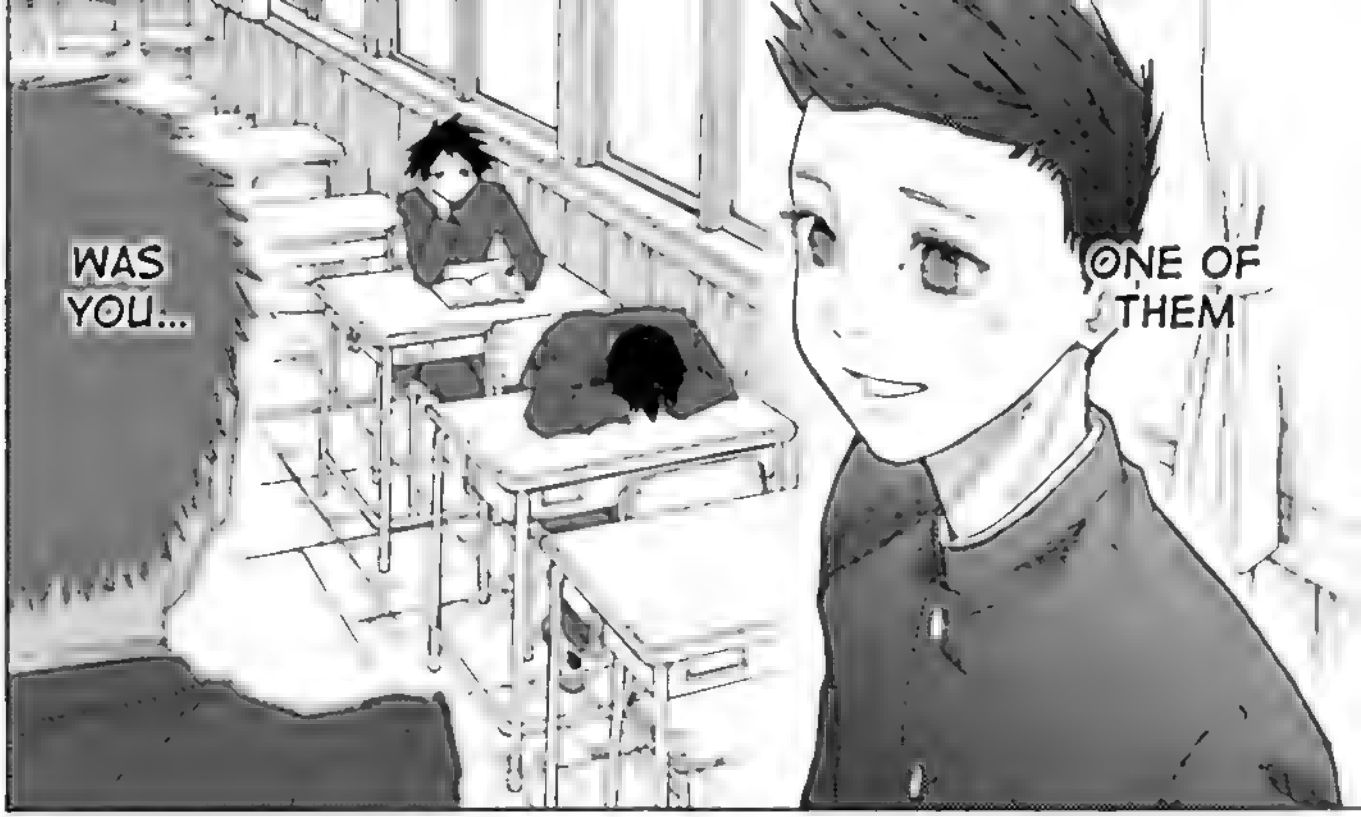
SENKOUJI KATSUMI.

PARENTS ARE ALIVE AND WELL. NO SIBLINGS. GREW UP IN A WELL-OFF FAMILY.
SEEMS LIKE HE'S PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS, BUT THERE IS NO GOSSIP ABOUT HIM.


15 YEARS OLD. BLOOD TYPE A.
HAS EXCELLENT GRADES. BAD AT SPORTS.

4TH YEAR IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
I WAS FRIENDS WITH SENKOUJI.
IT STARTED DUE TO A SEAT CHANGE. I BECAME SEATED NEXT TO HIM.
I, WHO WAS TIMID AND HAD NO FRIENDS, WAS HAPPY WHEN HE TALKED TO ME.
...BUT
ギチ
ギチギチ

THAT...
WAS A MIS-TAKE.
SENK-OUJI WAS
TAKEN BY THEM.
THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT CAT
WAS PROB-ABLY SENK-OUJI TOO...
THE MAIN CAUSE OF ALL OF THAT
WAS YOU.


WAS YOU...
ONE OF THEM

THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER SENKOUJI HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART OR NOT...

THERE'S NO WAY I'D KNOW!

HOW DO I CONFIRM THIS?
BUT I HAVE TO CONFIRM THIS.
DO YOU RE-MEMBER?
MY GETTING CLOSE TO HIM HASN'T SPARKED ANYTHING.
WHAT SHOULD I...
2 WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT SENKOUJI.
URUMA... KUN?
ONLY LEARNED 'THE WAYS TO KILL'...
GRAMPS... I'VE...

...SENK-
OUJI
-KUN
...

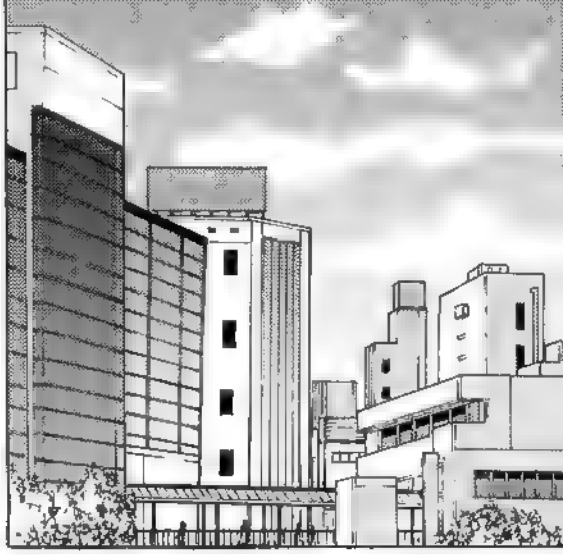
IT'S BEEN SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT TO DO IF YOU FORGOT!
I'M SO GLAD!

THERE'S NO WAY ...
I COULD FORGET.

DO YOU...
REMEMBER ME?

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID HE CALL OUT TO ME?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT SMILE?!
AH, UM...
ONLY IF YOU'D LIKE...
NEXT SUNDAY...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH ME?

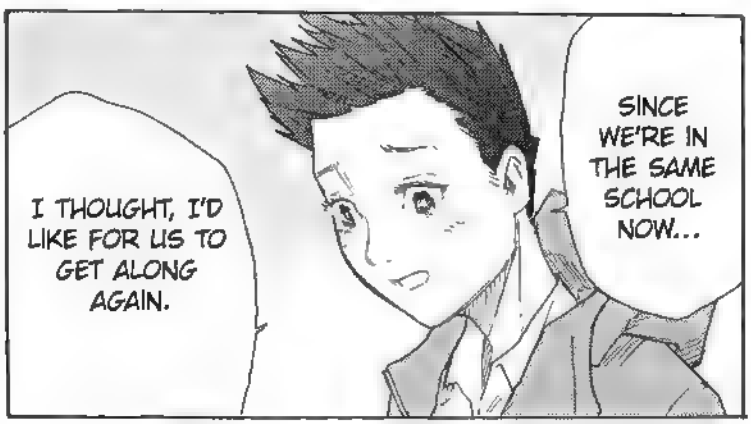
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T COME.



I'M SO GLAD.

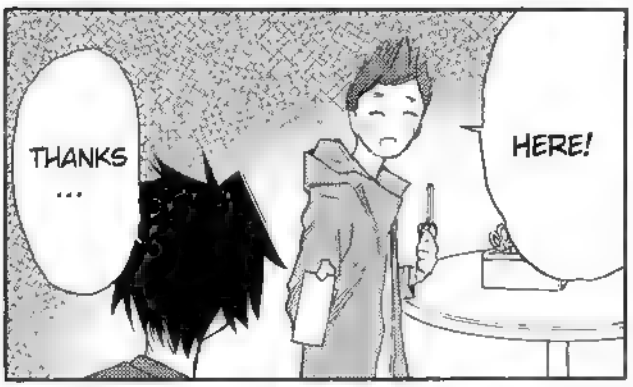
YOU WANT US TO GET ALONG AGAIN?
HMM.

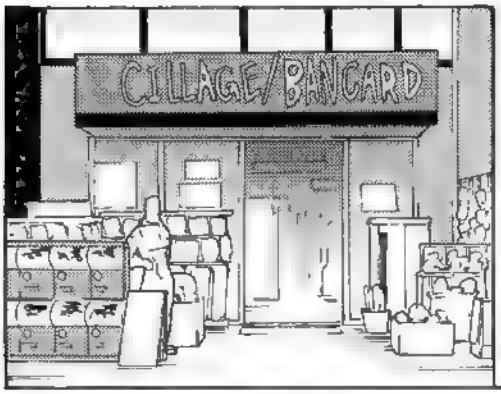
WHY DID YOU WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME?


I THOUGHT, I'D LIKE FOR US TO GET ALONG AGAIN.
SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME SCHOOL NOW...

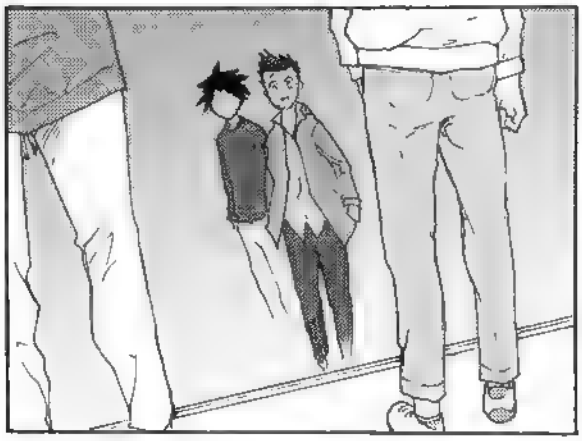
CERTAINLY, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE INNOCENTLY PLAYED TOGETHER.
BUT, WE'VE GOT A HISTORY THAT CAN'T JUST BE WIPED OFF, RIGHT?
YOU WANT TO IGNORE THAT AND GET ALONG?
WHAT KIND OF VIEW IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SENKOUJI KATSUMI IS PLOTTING, BUT...
I'M NOT GOING TO OVERLOOK YOUR EVIL.
AH!
AS A COMMEMORATION OF TODAY,
THAT...
SHALL WE TAKE ONE?

I'M GOING TO PASTE IT ON MY PHONE!
WAHH! I'M SO HAPPY!


THANKS ...
HERE!


CILLAGE/BANGARD

ぐっ
THEN, NEXT IS...!



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WHAT?
SOMETHING IS...
CAFE
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING...

STRANGE!
SORRY! NORMALLY IT'S FACING EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
BESIDE ME?

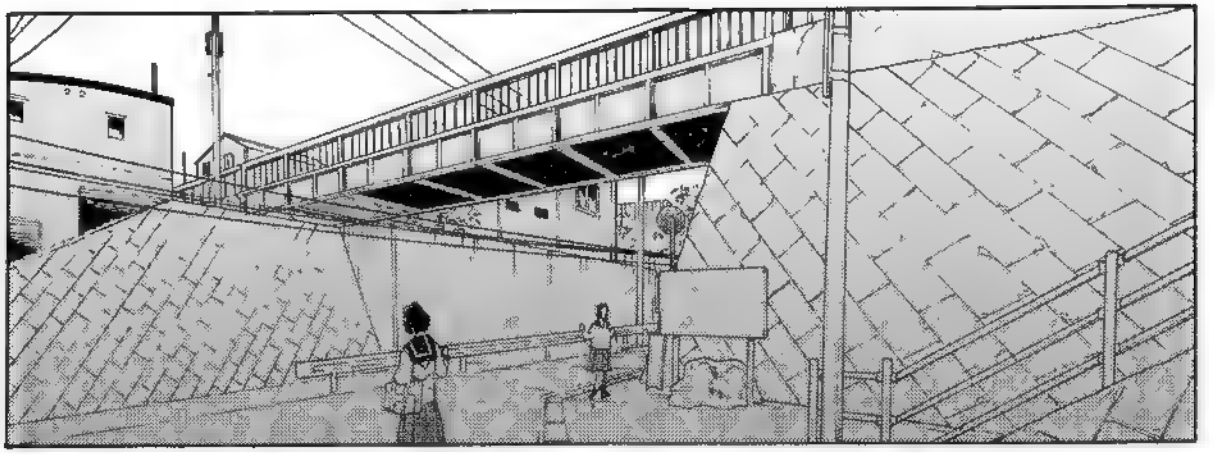
SENKOUJI IS
I SEE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THESE FEELINGS...?!
FACING ME...
THIS IS
RATHER THAN THAT...
I'VE FELT IT BEFORE. IT'S NOT MALICE...

FRIENDLINESS...
NO, PARDON ME.
THAT'S ...
URUMA-KUN... IS KIND OF ABSENT-MINDED...
SOMEHOW... I THOUGHT MAYBE I'M THE ONLY ONE HAVING FUN...
!?
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
HUH? SORRY.

WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED REGRET? THE THINGS FROM THE PAST ARE...
WISHING FOR SOMETHING FROM ME IS... WRONG?!
IT'S WRONG OF ME
TO BE WISHING FOR SOMETHING FROM URUMA-KUN...
AFTER THIS DAY, SENK-OUJI OFTEN CAME TO TALK TO ME.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED...?

SAY,
!
LATELY, YOU BEEN HANGING AROUND URUMA. WHY?
KUGA AND SENK-OUJI ARE TALKING ABOUT...
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
THAT'S ...
...

I HAVE SOMETHING I REGRET.
キーン コーン カーン コーン
WHAT'S THAT?
SOMETHING YOU... REGRET?
...
OI SENK-OUJI!
LET'S GO BACK.
IT COULDN'T BE... YOU...
SENKOUJI...



THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW URU-MA-KUN.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF YOUR ROUTE HOME, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME WITH ME!
IT'S OKAY.

IN YOU WANTING TO GET ALONG WITH ME,
THERE IS ONE THING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND.

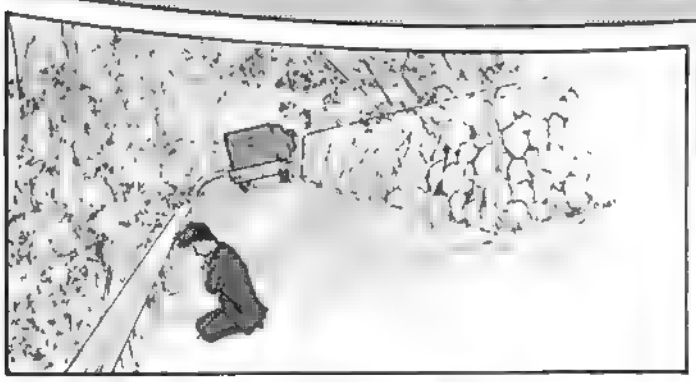
IT'S AROUND HERE...

SENK-OUJI-KUN.

YOU DO REMEMBER, RIGHT?
WHEN WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
WHAT YOU DID TO ME...
WHAT ARE SENKOUJI-KUN'S
THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS?
WITHOUT TOUCHING ON THAT, BUILDING THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP IS...
STRANGE TO ME.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!
I WANTED TO APOLOGISE SO MANY TIMES!
I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD CONTINUE TO PASS TIME LIKE THIS.
BUT... I WAS SCARED.
STOP... SENKOUJI...

!
MEW
THE SMILE FROM THAT TIME...
IS RISING TO THE SURFACE...
ギチギチ
AHH! THIS ONE!
I WAS LOOKING FOR HER...
M E W
COME HERE...



THANK GOOD-NESS...

HE RISKED HIS LIFE
TO SAVE A KITTEN?!

BEEN...
...REFORMED...
SENKOUJI HAS...
THERE'S NO MISTAKE...

IT'S NOW.
AH...
!?
AZUMA-SAN?!

UGH

HAVE YOU WOKEN UP?
MEW

AZUMA-SAN.

...SEN KOUJI

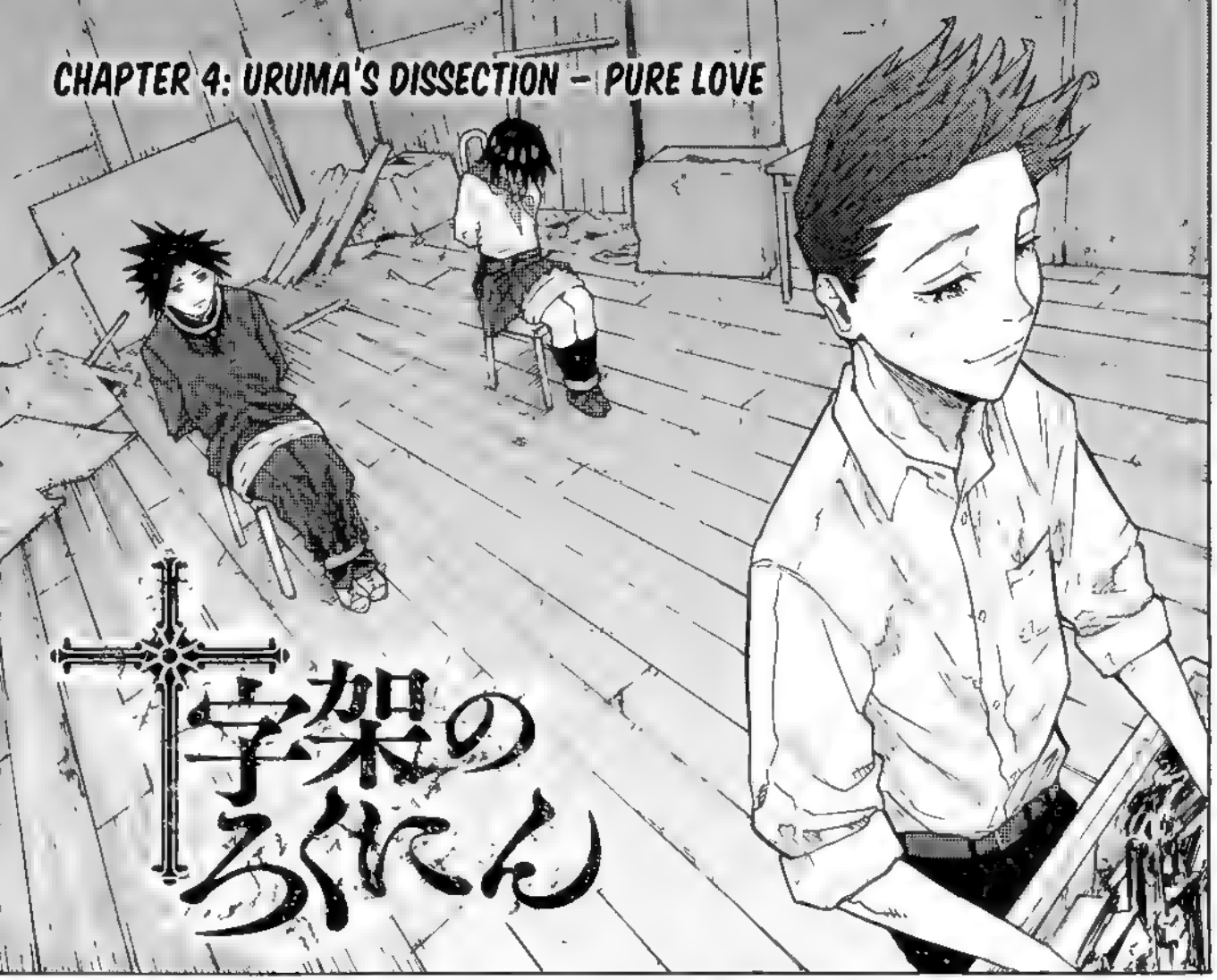
SOB
!

THAT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
I'VE ALWAYS...
I WASN'T ...
REGRETTED THIS.
ABLE TO KILL YOU...
YOU APPEARED BEFORE MY EYES!
MEW
NEVER... NEVER AGAIN... WILL I HAND THE PREY I'M AIMING FOR...
I THOUGHT THAT IT BELONGED TO SHIGOKU-SAN!
SO I WAS GOING TO GIVE UP, BUT...

MEW!
OVER
TO ANYONE ELSE!
CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER

CHAPTER 4: URUMA'S DISSECTION – PURE LOVE

十字架のろくにん



BUT...
FOR ME TO HAVE...!
THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS COMPLETELY DECEIVED BY SENKOUJI...

SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH SENKOUJI.

WHY IS AZUMA-SAN...?

SHE SHOULD HAVE...
I'M SORRY.
!?

THAT TIME ...?

I-I THOUGHT... I HAD TO HIDE IT...!
SENKOUJI-KUN, HE... A-AT THAT TIME... HE SAW...

IT'S ABOUT THIS.

!
I PASSED BY COINCI-DENTAL-LY...

AND AFTER THAT, URUMA-KUN CAME RUNNING TO HELP...
HE WAS SO COOL YOU COULD'VE FALLEN FOR HIM.

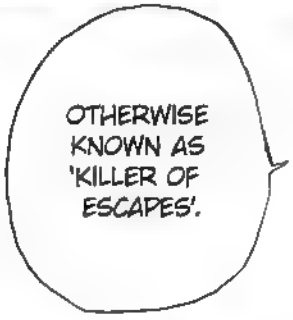
BUT IF I TIE YOU UP LIKE THIS...
I DON'T KNOW WHY URUMA-KUN WAS ABLE TO MOVE LIKE THAT,
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE AT ALL, RIGHT?

THOUGH THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.

DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I LEARNED FROM GRAMPS.

THIS IS...

IT'S 'TO-RINAWA'.


OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'KILLER OF ESCAPES'.

YOU CAN'T GET OUT UNLESS YOU RIP OFF YOUR FINGERS.
I READ BOOKS AND STUDIED ABOUT THIS.

FOR PRU-DENCE.

WHY DID YOU GO SO FAR...

?
OH, ONE MORE THING.

IN THE EDO PERIOD, PEOPLE DEVISED VARIOUS WAYS OF BINDING TO PREVENT CRIMINALS FROM ESCAPING THEM.
AMONG THEM, IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE HAS EVER BROKEN OUT FROM THE 'TORINAWA'.

I ARRANGED FOR THIS PLACE TO BLOW UP.
JUST IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON,

COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS SMELL...

!!

BE CARE-FUL.
SORRY.
THE BOTTLES OF KEROSENE I'VE SCATTERED AROUND THE ROOM WILL IGNITE.
IF I PRESS THE SWITCH, THE ELEC-TRICITY WILL RUN.

FUU

FINALLY, URUMA-KUN, WITH THESE HANDS, I CAN...
MY... MOST BELOVED PERSON!
Ahahahaha
BE-LOVED PERSON ...?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
AHA!
!

STOP?!
STOP IT, SENKOUJI-KUN!
WE'RE JUST STARTING!
AS I TORMENT AND TORMENT HIM, I HAVE TO SEE LOTS AND LOTS
OF URUMA-KUN'S AGONISED EXPRESSIONS!
THE ONLY TIME I'LL STOP
IS WHEN URUMA-KUN DIES!
!

AT THIS RATE... URUMA-KUN WILL...
IT'S ALRIGHT, AZUMA-SAN.
WHY...? TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...!
HE'S YOUR BELOVED PERSON... THAT MEANS YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT...?
JUST THIS MUCH
IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
...IS THAT SO.
THEN LET'S USE THAT.

!
NICE, RIGHT?
A NAIL GUN...
IT'S A TOOL THAT USES GAS TO DRIVE IN NAILS.
Click
!?
AZUMA-SAN.
I DID TELL YOU TO PLEASE STAY STILL, RIGHT?

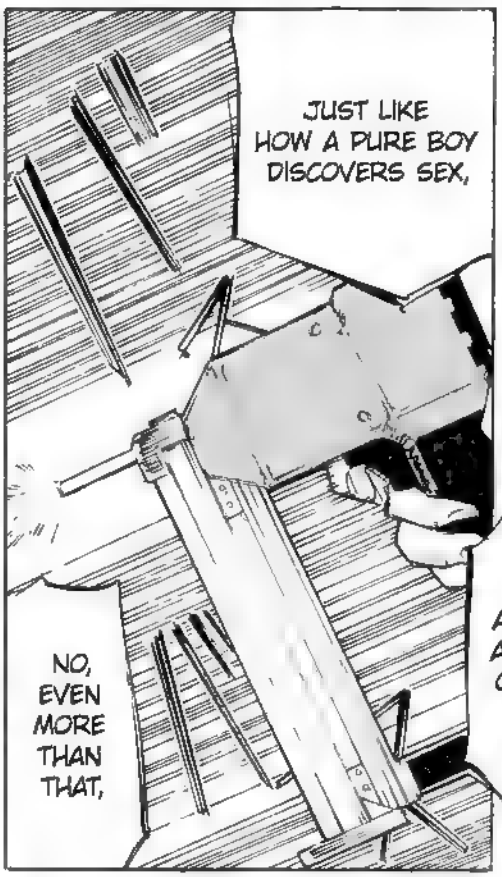
KYA!
AH!
SENK-
OUJI!
!!
HAA.
AS I EXPECTED, EVEN IF I SEE THAT KIND OF FACE FROM AZUMA-SAN,
IT'S NOT EXCITING AT ALL, HUH.
THAT CAT'S NAME IS MIITA.
I FOUND IT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE ABANDONED HOUSE AND FED AND DOTED ON IT.

BE IT A LOVER OR PET, THE MORE AFFECTION SOMEONE HOLDS FOR THEM, THE MORE UNIMAGINABLE THE LOOK OF ANGUISH AND SUFFERING ON THEIR FACE IS WHEN THEY DIE, RIGHT?!
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I WANT TO SEE IT! HOW THIS ADORABLE CAT DIES... AND HOW THE AGONY LOOKS LIKE ON THE FACE OF SOMEONE WHO LOVED IT!

NO!
IT'S BECAUSE I TRULY LIKE IT THAT I'M ABLE TO SAVOR THESE FEELINGS!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T TRULY LIKE IT! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT!

YOU CAN TASTE THE BEST SENSE OF IMMORALITY!
NO!
KYA!


JUST LIKE HOW A PURE BOY DISCOVERS SEX,
NO, EVEN MORE THAN THAT,

PUTTING SOMETHING YOU LOVE IN A PITIFUL STATE IS
ALMOST LIKE A FORBIDDEN OFFICE LOVE.

THAT'S A SLIGHTLY MORE EXCIT-ING SIGHT.
HAHA!
HE'S INSANE...
THIS GRATIFI-CATION IS
SNIFF
SNIFF
LET ME GAIN AWARE-NESS OF...
WHAT SHI-GOKU-SAN
DON'T LOOK ...

JUST YOU TRY.
I... WAS MISTAKEN.
WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION WILL YOU SHOW ME?
URUMA-KUN.
SHIGOKU.
EVIL IS...
BOTTOMLESS
THEIR.

じわぁ…
INK

Aha haha haha
Aha!
!
DOES IT HURT?! IS IT PAINFUL?!
AGAIN!
THIS TIME IT'S TWO SHOTS!

LET ME SEE IT!
MORE!
COME ON!
MORE!
COME ON!
STOP!
STOP!
YOUR...
EXPRES-SION...
YOUR AGONISED AND TWISTED EXPRES-SION!

Nnn

WHY...?
THE COLOR OF YOUR FACE DIDN'T EVEN...

TO THIS LEVEL OF PAIN
FOUR YEARS AGO, THANKS TO YOU GUYS.

I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.

WERE YOU PLANNING ON USING TOOLS FOREVER?
MY BAD, BUT
IF IT'S AT THIS LEVEL, MY EYEBROW WON'T EVEN TWITCH UNTIL I'M DEAD.
WHA-
THAT'S WHY, SINCE WAY BACK,
OR WHAT?
ARE YOU SCARED OF TOUCHING A DEAD MAN'S BODY?
YOU'VE ALWAYS USED TOOLS?
I UNDER-STAND.
IN THE END, USING YOUR OWN HANDS TO KILL
IS PERHAPS LIMITED TO BUGS AND CATS.

I'LL KILL YOU!
WITH THESE HANDS,
IF YOU GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT,
NO!

URUMA-KUN WILL...
AT THIS RATE,
ズッ
ズッ
END UP DYING...!
HOW IS IT?! MY STRANGLING...
IS IT TO YOUR SATISFACTION?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING...

FOR THIS TIME.

Urg
YOU FINALLY LET GO OF THE SWITCH.
EH?

EVEN IF I UNTIED THE ROPES AND COUNTERATTACKED,
WITH A LIGHT PRESS OF THE SWITCH, IT'S THE END.

HOW ...

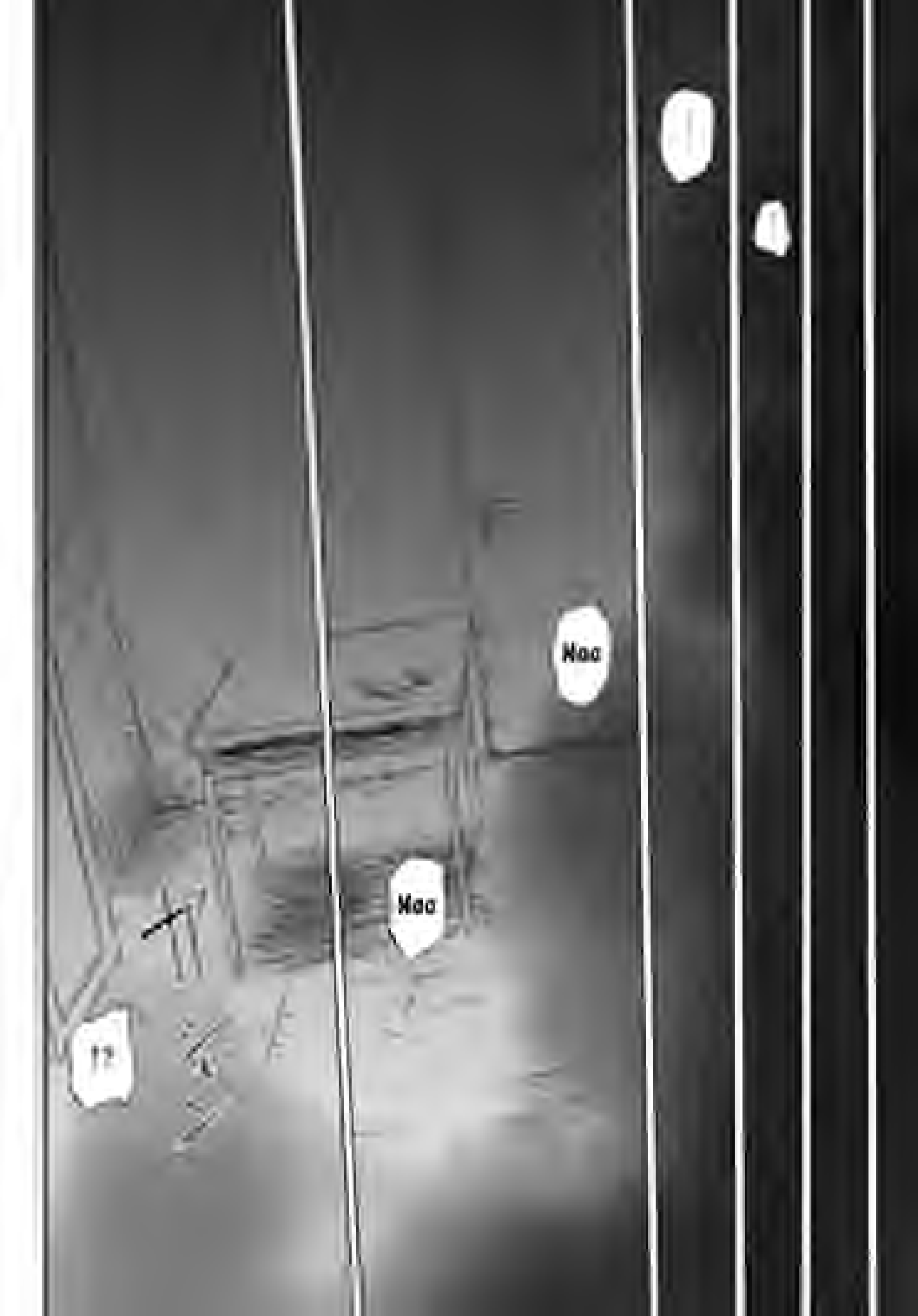
HOW DID YOU... GET OUT OF...?!

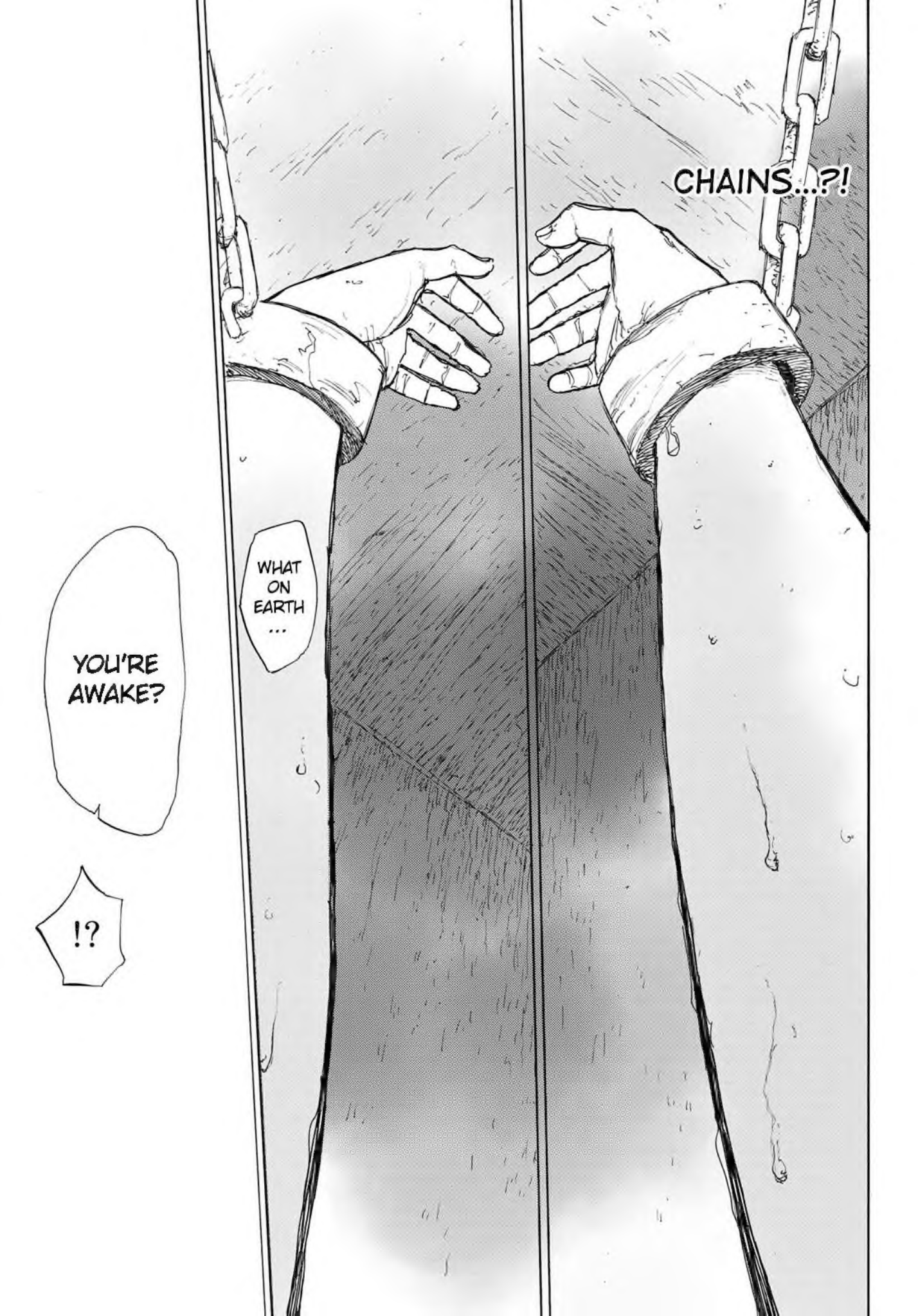
IS 68.
THE NUMBER OF JOINTS IN A PERSON'S BODY

I CAN FREELY CONTROL
ALMOST ALL OF THEM.
ALSO, THE WAY YOU STRAN-GLE
IS NO GOOD.
LIKE THIS.
THUMBS IN THE WINDPIPE.
INDEX FINGER TO THE CAROTID ARTERY. MIDDLE FINGER AP-PLIES PRES-SURE TO THE JUGULAR VEIN.

IN 8 TO 14 SECONDS,
YOU LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.
Gorh!
IN 3 TO 5 MINUTES, DAMAGE TO THE CORTEX OF THE BRAIN.
IN 7 TO 10 MINUTES, TO YOUR BRAIN STEM...
AND THEN YOU DIE.
I WON'T
LET YOU DIE YET.

AZUMA-
SAN...


Naa
Naa
!?


CHAINS...?!
WHAT ON EARTH ...
YOU'RE AWAKE?
!?

HEY.
URUMA-KUN...
CONGRAT-ULA-TIONS.
パチ
パチ
パチ
YOU'RE THE FIRST.
AND
WEL-COME
YEAH.
THE FIRST ...?

TO THE BEGINNING
OF THE END.
CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER